



# ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Services Available to Victims of Parental Child Abduction**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko advises the public that the District Attorney’s Office Child Abduction and Recovery Unit (CARU) is available to assist the public with child custody enforcement matters. According to the California Department of Justice Reports of Missing Children, in 2021, 1,518 children in California were reported missing due to parental abduction. District Attorneys throughout the state are statutorily mandated to respond to a parental child abduction. The CARU assists all victims of parental child abductions regardless of their immigration status.

Under the provisions of the California Family Code, the CARU must “take all actions necessary” to locate abducted children and their abductors, return the children to their lawful custodians, and enforce custody and visitation orders. The CARU’s goal is to ensure peaceful enforcement of court custody orders for the benefit of the parents, children and other family members impacted by a parental abduction. The CARU does not represent either parent or party and is not a substitute for private counsel.

If you or a loved one needs assistance enforcing custody or visitation orders, contact the District Attorney’s CARU at (805) 662-1755. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.vcdistrictattorney.com/Services/special-prosecutions/#child>.

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The Ventura County District Attorney’s Office is the public prosecutor for the county’s 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.